

May 24, 1988

TO: File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist HWS

RE: Field Inspection, Small Fry Mine, M/037/022, San Juan County, Utah

On March 13, 1988, Frank Filas and I visited the Small Fry Mine. The site is operated by W.K. Enterprises. The operator obtained an approved plan for the property on January 15, 1980 after posting a \$12,000 bond.

The mine is presently inactive. Intermittently over the last two years, Rio Algom has been hauling ore from a low grade ore stockpile to the Lisbon Mine and Mill. Rio Algom has been removing ore from the stockpile this spring. The Division has spoken to the operator about reclaiming the old ore stockpile area, some three to four acres. Once reclaimed, the operator could file a SMO and receive the \$12,000 bond back.

The site has been slated for reclamation this year. It will be a difficult site to reclaim because of the lack of topsoil; none has been salvaged. However, the plan submitted in 1977 by Ranchers Exploration and Development Corporation, indicates that soil material will be scalped from an arroyo located due east of the site.

The material presently on the ground surface, green shale from the Chinle Formation, will be almost impossible to reclaim. The material is probably high in clay content, alkaline, and extremely low in nutrient content. Nothing has currently volunteered onto this material although some areas have not been disturbed for three to four years. The material will have to be covered with something else.

We observed, when onsite, that the green shale averages a depth of two to four inches on the surface. Below this a more viable material exists. If the top two to four inches could be turned over completely, or at least incorporated with the more viable material, reclamation would be more successful. This will be suggested if the operator is unable to scalp or scrape material from the adjacent arroyo.

I spoke with Bob Shumway of W.K. Enterprises on May 24, 1988. Mr. Shumway indicated that no steps have been taken to reclaim the property yet. I asked Mr. Shumway to consult with me before proceeding with the reclamation. Division personnel should probably be onsite when reclamation is being implemented.

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